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owe the possession of the single valve, were right in assigning it to China. Doubts arose from the fact that, heretofore, *Triquetra* has been considered to be confined to South America. Mr. Lea stated that he proposed the name should be changed from that he originally proposed, (*T. lanceolata*, as inappropriate to the complete mature shell,) to that of *contorta*, which is very descriptive, and can never be mistaken.

December 23d.

DR. BRIDGES, Vice President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Society of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce, dated Adelphi, London, Nov. 22d, 1856, acknowledging the receipt of the Proceedings of the Academy.

The following papers were presented for publication in the Proceedings of the Academy:—

“Note on the collection of Reptiles from Texas, recently presented to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia by Dr. A. Heermann. By Edward Hallowell, M. D.” “Description of a new genus of Colubriiform Serpents from California. By Edward Hallowell, M. D. ;” both referred to a Committee consisting of Mr. Haldeman, Dr. Le Conte and Dr. Morris.

“Notices of extinct Vertebrata discovered by Dr. F. V. Hayden, &c. By Joseph Leidy, M. D. ;” referred to a Committee consisting of Dr. Le Conte, Mr. Haldeman and Dr. Wilson.

“Catalogue of Birds collected at Cape Lopez, Western Africa, by Mr. P. B. Du Chaillu, in 1856, with notes and descriptions of new species. By John Cassin ;” referred to Drs. Woodhouse, Wilson and Bridges.

“Description of three new genera, twenty-three new species of Tertiary fossils from California, and one species from Texas. By T. A. Conrad ;” referred to Dr. Wilson, Dr. Leidy and Mr. A. H. Smith.

Dr. Morris mentioned an instance of a tumor taken from the abdomen of a cat, which, upon examination, proved to be true medullary cancer.

December 30th.

DR. BRIDGES, Vice President, in the Chair.

The Committees to which were referred Drs. Leidy's and Hilgard's papers, read 16th inst. ; and Drs. Hallowell's and Leidy's, and Messrs. Cassin's and Conrad's papers, read 23d inst., severally reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

Remarks on certain extinct species of Fishes.

By JOSEPH LEIDY, M. D.

Remarks on Edestus vorax, Journ. A. N. S. iil. 159.—Since describing the fossil, supposed to be the fragment of an upper jaw of a fish, to which the name of *Edestus vorax* was given, it has occurred to me that it may perhaps be the portion of a dorsal spine of a huge cartilaginous fish. In the published Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, (Providence,